

## Message Text

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64-60

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9088

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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TAGS: PFOR, EF, EEC

FOLLOWING TEL FROM USIS BRUSSELS (USINFO) 07 NOV SENT ACTION  
TO USINFO WASHDC AND SECSTATE REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO:

QUOTE

UNCLAS USIS BRUSSELS 0085

FOR IOR/RIM, IPS,PE, IBS, IWE,  
STATE FOR EUR/WE, ROOM 5228 A

--BELGIAN MEDIA COVERAGE OF MIDEAST CRISIS.

1. JOINT DECLARATION OF NINE ON MIDEAST DOMINATES EXTENSIVE  
COVERAGE OF MIDEAST SITUATION IN ALL MEDIA. EDITORIAL COMMENT  
RANGES FROM APPROVAL TO STRONG CRITICISM OF EUROPEAN STAND.

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2. INFLUENTIAL CONSERVATIVE CATHOLIC LA LIBRE BELGIQUE WRITES:

"CONFRONTED WITH THE MIDEAST CRISIS... THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HAS SPOKEN OUT. IT HAS DONE SO WITHOUT LETTING ITSELF BE TIED BY A CHOICE THAT WOULD NO DOUBT HAVE BEEN DRAMATIC: SIMPLE MARK ITS SOLIDARITY WITH THE NETHERLANDS... AND VERY CERTAINLY RISK THAT SAME EMBARGO, OR AVOID THIS EMBARGO BUT COMPROMISE THE ENTIRE EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION BY APPLYING TOWARDS ONE OF ITS MEMBERS THE POLICY OF "EACH FOR HIMSELF"... THIS STAND IS IMPORTANT TO THE EXTENT IN WHICH THE DECISIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS ARE FREQUENTLY CRITICIZED AND IN WHICH THE WEIGHT OF EUROPE, TAKING UNANIMOUS POSITION OF VALUE OF THESE TEXTS, CAN PLAY DECISIVE ROLE. THIS DOCUMENT IS ALSO IMPORTANT ON THE INTER-EUROPEAN LEVEL TO THE EXTENT IN WHICH IT REPRESENTS THE FIRST POSITION OF THE COMMUNITY WITH RESPECT TO A SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL CRISIS...THE ARAB WORLD SHOULD ABOVE ALL UNDERSTAND, IF IT IS ESSENTIAL TO EUROPE BECAUSE OF ITS OIL, EUROPE, FOR ONE, CAN PLAY A DECISIVE ROLE IN THE SOLUTION OF ITS PROBLEMS. EUROPE IS ALSO ESSENTIAL TO THE ARAB WORLD. IF THIS HADN'T BEEN THE CASE, WOULD THE LATTER HAVE USED THE "OIL WEAPON" AGAINST IT?"

3. IMPORTANT INDEPENDENT LE SOIR COMMENTS THAT "WHILE IT IS NOT PARTICULARLY STRIKING BY ITS POLITICAL COURAGE, THE DECLARATION OF THE "NINE" COULD AT LEAST HAVE THE MERIT OF EVADING THE HORRORS OF AN OIL SHORTAGE AGAINST WHICH IT HAS NEITHER HAD THE IMAGINATION NOR THE WILL TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS, DESPITE THE 1956 ALERT AND THE EVIDENCE THAT THE WORLD IN THE DECADES TO COME WILL BE FACED WITH BIG ENERGY PROBLEMS."

4. MASS-CIRCULATION LIBERAL HET LAATSTE NIEUWS WRITES: "...THERE IS NO USE IN ANNOUNCING WITH DRUMS BEATING, WAYS IN WHICH OTHER EC COUNTRIES CAN POSSIBLY HELP THE NETHERLANDS IN SUPPLYING OIL. THIS WOULD APPEAR AS A CHALLENGE TO THE ARAB WORLD. MUCH BETTER IS A SYSTEM OPERATED BY AN INDEPENDENT BODY LIKE THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION WHICH CAN ACT IN EMERGENCIES. POLITICALLY THE ROAD HAS BEEN MADE A LITTLE BIT EASIER...FINALLY EUROPE HAS SPOKEN WITH ONE VOICE IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT, THE VOICE THAT WANTS TO HELP ESTABLISH PEACE AND THAT IS TURNING NEITHER AGAINST THE ARABS NOR THE ISRAELIS..."

5. FOR CATHOLIC DE NIEUWE GIDS "THIS DECLARATION CLEARLY BEARS UNCLASSIFIED

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THE MARK OF ENGLISH AND FRENCH POLICIES...THE DUTCH LEADERS HAVE SHOWN THEIR GOOD WILL BY APPROVING AND SIGNING THE PRO-ARAB DECLARATION OF THE NINE. THEY WILL PROBABLY HAVE BEEN URGED IN THIS BY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THEY MUST NOT COUNT TOO MUCH ON THE SOLIDARITY OF THEIR PARTNERS, SPECIFICALLY GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE WHERE THE SACRO EGOISMO HAS EVIDENCED ITSELF NAKEDLY." ELSEWHERE, DE NIEUWE GIDS CALLS FOR A NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN ENERGY POLICY AND ADDS THAT "IN THE LONG RUN, A WORLD ACCORD MUST BE CONCLUDED BETWEEN THE OIL

CONSUMING COUNTRIES, EUROPE, JAPAN AND THE U.S. ON ONE SIDE AND THE OIL PRODUCERS ON THE OTHER SIDE. IN THE LONG RUN THE ARAB PRODUCING COUNTRIES CAN SUFFER BIG DISADVANTAGES FROM THE USE OF THEIR OIL AS POLITICAL WEAPON...IT IS NOT ENTIRELY TRUE THAT EUROPE HAS NO TRUMPS... ARAB COUNTRIES NEED WESTERN TECHNOLOGY AND INVESTMENT GOODS TO ACHIEVE THEIR INDUSTRIALIZATION..."

6. UNDER THE HEADING "THE BANKRUPTCY OF EUROPE", EDIT IN MASS-CIRCULATION LABOR CATHOLIC HET VOLK IS PARTICULARLY CRITICAL OF ENTIRE ATTITUDE OF EUROPE IN MIDEAST CRISIS. PAPER SAYS THAT IT IS ILLUSION FOR EUROPE TO THINK THAT IT CAN SAVE ITSELF BY STRICTLY NEUTRAL ATTITUDE IN CONFLICT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT ARABS DEMAND MORE THAN PURE NEUTRALITY. IT CONTINUES THAT "EUROPE HAS ADHERED SO STRICTLY TO THIS NEUTRALITY THAT IT HAS EVEN GIVEN UP IT MOST ELEMENTARY NATO COMMITMENTS... THE WEST GERMANS AND CHANCELLOR WILLY BRANDT, FORGETTING HOW VALUABLE THE AMERICAN AIRLIFT WAS TO THEMSELVES AT THE TIME FO RUSSIAN BLAOCKADE OF BERLIN, AND EVEN FARTHER. THEY PREVENTED THE AMERICANS FROM SHIPPING AMERICAN WEAPONS FROM A GERMAN PORT TO ISRAEL. IN SHORT, EUROPE HAS GIVEN TO WORLD EXAMPLE OF COWARDICE AND LACK OF COURAGE WITHOUT PRECEDENT ON OUR CONTINENT SINCE NAZIS BEFORE WAR SWALLOWED WITH IMPUNITY AUSTRIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND DANZIG." PAPER FURTHER WRITES THAT ARAB OIL WAR IS IN FACT IDEA FROM KREMLIN DESIGNED "TO ECONOMICALLY HARM WESTERN EUROPE, TO WEAKEN IT HOPELESSLY POLITICALLY AND DISRUPT IT, AND AT SAME TIME CAUSE BREACH IN NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND UNBRIDGEABLE GAP BETWEEN AMERICA AND EUROPE." IN CONCLUSION HET WOLK WRITES THAT IT CANNOT BELIEVE THAT EUROPE HAS NO MEANS OF RESISTANCE AGAINS THE ARAB OIL MENACE. "IF WE REALLY DO NOT HAVE ANY MEANS OF RESISTANCE AND IF, MOREOVER WE ARE ALSO SO NAIVE SO AS TO LET OUR ALLIANCE WITH AMERICA GET LOST, THEN EUROPE IS... INDEED RIPE FOR "FINLANDIZATION". SHOULD OUR MINISTERS NOT KNOW THAT WHAT THIS WORD MEANS, THEY CAN ALWAYS ASK THE FINNISH UNCLASSIFIED

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AMBASSADOR."

7. FOR WIDELY-READ GAZET VAN ANTWERPEN SEVERAL LESSONS-- BOTH MINTARY AND POLITICAL--CAN BE DRAWN FROM THE YOM KIPPUR WAR, ONE OF THEM BEING THAT "NATO IS FAR FROM BEING OUTDATED AND THAT EUROPE CANNOT DO WITHOUT AMERICAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE. THIS AWARE-NESS SELF-EVIDENTLY REINFORCES THE AMERICAN DEMAND THAT THE EUROPEAN PARTNERS CONTRIBUTE MORE TO THE COMMON DEFENSE. IT HAS CLEARLY BEEN DEMONSTRATED THAT NOT THE "NUMBER" OF TROOPS MATTER, BUT THE "QUALITY" OF THE WEAPONS AND THE MEN WHO HAVE OPERTE THEM... THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN "QUANTITY" AND "QUALITY" WILL NOW MORE THAN EVER HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE TROOP REDUCTION TALKS IN VIENNA..., ITEM STRAUSZ-HUPE

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